

MYSTEROUS SUIT IN BROOKLYN.
Hugh McLaughlin and Many Other Politicians Will Testify.

A lawsuit in which Hugh McLaughlin, the Democratic leader of Brooklyn, will appear as a witness, will probably be called for trial on Tuesday next in the Supreme Court, Special Term, in Brooklyn. It is said the suit involves \$25,000, and that a good many officeholders and politicians have been summoned to give testimony. There is a good deal of mystery about the case. It is said to be connected in some way with a rumor of some time ago that \$20,000 had disappeared from the Street Cleaning Department.

The plaintiff is Henry Beran, and the defendant, Daniel O'Connell, a political leader in the Ninth ward. Hector M. Hitchings of this city has been retained by Mr. Beran, and Anthony Barrett by Mr. O'Connell. Mr. Beran was in partnership with the defendant in the Street Cleaning Department. Their contract expired and a new one was taken out, but it continued to be friendly, and the suit is a surprise to their friends.

Mr. O'Connell, the defendant, who lives at 510 Clinton Avenue, says that the case was a mystery to him, and he did not understand what Mr. Beran meant by bringing suit for \$20,000.

He said, "we were in partnership, and always got along well together. Our contract terminated a year ago last February. It was the first year cleaning department was ever incorporated. The contract was given to Mr. Beran, but by an agreement between ourselves, I put up the money and he did the work. We were partners. We were to share our profits equally. At the time we dissolved our partnership, Mr. Beran gave me a certificate that I owed him nothing, and in addition, he said, I was a funny man, and I cannot understand it."

"Will you fight the case?"

"Why certainly I'll fight the case and Mr. Beran will be in trouble."

Lawyer Hitchings says Mr. Beran has been defrauded out of \$25,000, and that is all he will say about the case. It will probably be tried by Justice Pratt.

IS IT THE WORK OF AN ENEMY?

An Appeal to Presbyterians Which Some of Dr. Briggs's Friends Repudiate.

A Presbyterian paper of Cincinnati announces that when the "Plea for Peace and Work," which was circulated last month by the friends of Dr. Briggs, was mailed to ministers of the Presbyterian Church in different parts of the country, a confidential communication was enclosed with it in the case of a few ministers who could be relied upon. The gist of this communication is contained in the following paragraphs:

"In view of the growing demand for peace and liberty, attract attention away from the real issues involved in the Briggs case, we may prevent adverse action at the General Assembly by sending this circular to Prof. F. Brown feels confident we will, the Assembly of

"The matter has been carried on very quietly and secretly, so as to keep it out of the papers until early in June, when it will be published in full in the *Standard*, and have a tremendous effect when it is known that the city fathers of the rich and influential

"Would you not like to begin? If so, send me word promptly, and the paper will be printed soon and ought to be published in the *Standard* as soon as possible."

Dr. Henry Van Dyke, who was one of the authors and circulators of this "Plea for Peace," declared, so a friend speaking for him said yesterday that the secret circular, if it existed, was more likely the work of an enemy than of a friend. Dr. Briggs, in any event, it was calculated to insure his safety, and to bring him into friendly or unscrupulous favor with Dr. Briggs's real friends repudiated it.

TOTTEN SOUNDS AN ALARM.

He Says the Millennium Will Begin with the September Equinox.

Prof. C. A. L. Totten said yesterday that he had not the shadow of a doubt as to the general accuracy of his chronological work, nor as to "the particular accuracy within the necessary personal equation of all human effort." He maintains that we are in the midnight hour specified in the parable of the ten virgins.

"The clock," said the Professor, "is still striking; the tenth stroke will end its sounding at the coming March equinox, the eleventh in June, and the twelfth, or final stroke, at the September equinox of the current year. After that none of the virgins need be in any further doubt as to the time or to whom or for whom the millennium will begin."

But I do expect to cause my own race, and particularly them that be of his household of faith. The motion in the religious world is already too apparent to be mistaken: it is in the religious world, and the church, and not in the world, but must be born forth into the world.

Dr. Charles L. Thompson, one of the first of the religious leaders of the church, said yesterday that the secret circular, if it existed, was more likely the work of an enemy than of a friend. Dr. Briggs, in any event, it was calculated to insure his safety, and to bring him into friendly or unscrupulous favor with Dr. Briggs's real friends repudiated it.

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